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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,314	06/27/2001	Phillip B. Blankenship	KOCH.84166	2106
27910	7590	03/25/2004	EXAMINER	
STINSON MORRISON HECKER LLP ATTN: PATENT GROUP 1201 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 2800 KANSAS CITY, MO 64106-2150			FULLER, ERIC B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1762	

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,314

Applicant(s)

BLANKENSHIP ET AL. 

Examiner

Eric B Fuller

Art Unit

1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 37-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group II is acknowledged. The traversal is on the grounds that allegedly the method cannot be used to make a different product. This is not found persuasive because the a method that reads on the applicant's claims can be used to make a product that has stability test less than 18. Additionally, a process where no stability test is performed can produce the product as claimed.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 37-47 and 49-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helf (US 6,248,396 B1) in view of Walter (US 3,907,582) and Goodrich et al. (US 5,306,750).

Helf teaches a method of selecting an aggregate, selecting an asphalt, and selecting a polymer (column 2, lines 35-47), heating the asphalt to between about 150 and 200 degrees Celsius (column 7, lines 5-15), adding the polymer to the asphalt to form a binder, stirring the binder until said polymer is substantially dissolved, stirring the

Art Unit: 1762

binder until a substantially homogeneous binder is formed, mixing the binder with the aggregate to form an interlayer (column 7, lines 55-57), and spreading the interlayer on the roadway. Helf additionally teaches the addition of cross-linking agents (column 5, line 65) and the high viscosity of the binder reads on low shear blending conditions. Helf additionally teaches the overlay (column 8, lines 55-63). As the mixture may be used as an interlayer or a may be the top layer, this reads on allowing traffic to drive on the interlayer.

The reference fails to teach performing stability and fatigue tests. However, Walter teaches that a Hveem stability test is used to determine the stability of an asphalt road so that it meets highway specifications and the results are effected by the amount of asphalt in the mixture (column 2, lines 44-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to utilize a Hveem stability test. By doing so, one is able to ensure that highway specifications are met. It would have been within the skill of one practicing in the art, through routine experimentation, to determine the amount of asphalt that is needed in order to achieve the maximum stability. This reads on using the stability test to design the interlayer.

Additionally, Goodrich teaches that Flexural Beam Fatigue test is used to determine the fatigue life of an asphalt road the results are effected by the amount of polymer in the mixture (column 11, lines 60-65)). Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to utilize a Flexural Beam Fatigue test. By doing so, one is able to ensure a long fatigue life of the product. It would have been within the skill of one practicing in the art, through routine

experimentation, to determine the amount of polymer that is needed to achieve the maximum fatigue life. This reads on using a fatigue test to design the interlayer.

As to claims 42-44, 53, and 54, Goodrich also teaches to determine the shear modulus, strain tolerance, bending creep, and rotational viscosity such that a good quality product is achieved (examples). Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to determine these attributes. By doing so, a good quality product is achieved.

As to claims 46, 47, and 49, Wilson teaches cooling between layers and forming an overcoat with a thickness of 1 inch (column 4-41). To use these values in the process taught by Helf would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art. By doing so, one would have a reasonable expectation of success, as both references pertain to coating roads with an overlay.

Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helf (US 6,248,396 B1) in view of Walter (US 3,907,582) and Goodrich et al. (US 5,306,750), as applied to claim 45 above, and further in view of McDonald (US 3,891,585).

The references mentioned above teach the limitations to claim 45, but fail to explicitly teach sweeping the roadway and sealing cracks prior to applying the interlayer. However, McDonald teaches to sweep the roadway and seal the cracks prior to forming an asphalt/polymer layer on it (column 9, lines 18-41). This is done so that underlying fatigue cracking is not reflected in the new layer (column 7, line 12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to sweep and seal the cracks in the roadway of Helf. By doing so, the underlying fatigue cracks are not reflected in the new layer.

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that Goodrich teaches to perform the stability test after the composition has been laid, thus fails to teach designing an interlayer based on the fatigue test. Examiner disagrees. The claims do not require that the test be performed prior to application. Since Goodrich teaches to test the layer and teaches that the asphalt content controls the stability, it would have at least been obvious to use this data to design future interlayers.

Applicant argues that Walter teaches to perform the fatigue test after the composition has been laid, thus fails to teach designing an interlayer based on the fatigue test. Examiner disagrees. The claims do not require that the test be performed prior to application. Since Walter teaches to test the layer and teaches that the polymer content controls the fatigue, it would have at least been obvious to use this data to design future interlayers.

Applicant argues that McDonald's pavement repair composition for surface should not be combined with Walter's asphaltic pavement base. This is not found convincing. The examiner only relies on McDonald to teach sweeping and the idea of sealing cracks before applying the interlayer.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 1762

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric B Fuller whose telephone number is (571) 272-1420. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Thursdays.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive P Beck, can be reached at (571) 272-1415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1762

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



EBF



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